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Arapahoe Philharmonic Presents “Dreams of the Future”

***Program features premiere by Jonathan Bingham,
winner of 2016 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition***

Littleton, CO – The Arapahoe Philharmonic presents its final program of the 2016–2017 concert season, “Dreams of the Future,” featuring music by Hector Berlioz and a premiere by emerging composer Jonathan Bingham. The performance takes place on **Friday, May 19, 2017, at South Suburban Christian Church**, 7275 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO 80122. A second performance will be held on **Saturday, May 20, 2017, at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church**, 8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch, CO 80129. The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a talk with Maestro Devin Patrick Hughes and composer Jonathan Bingham at 6:45 p.m. Tickets and information may be found at www.arapahoe-phil.org or by calling 303-781-1892. The Arapahoe Philharmonic thanks Zócalo Community Development for sponsoring these performances.

AP Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes speaks about the program in this video message:
<https://youtu.be/AlyVwwZG-5Q>.

Berlioz’s most famous work, the *Symphonie Fantastique*, is a five-movement symphony that takes the listener on a wildly imaginative journey. In the first movement, “Reveries – Passions,” we are introduced to the young musician as he falls madly in love and faces the gamut of emotions of young obsession. The musical representation of his obsession with the woman is introduced as an *idée fixe*, which recurs throughout the symphony. The second movement, “A Ball,” sets a festive tone for the glamorous party at which he again meets his beloved. The third movement, “Scene in the Fields,” portrays a sense of calm and loneliness, as the young musician questions his beloved’s loyalty. In the fourth movement, the protagonist is convinced that his love is scorned and poisons himself with opium. He hallucinates that he has killed his love, has been sentenced to death and is marched to the scaffold for his execution. The final movement is the diabolical funeral celebration, a witches’ sabbath, culminating in a dramatic finale. Actress Harriet Smithson was the real-life object of Berlioz’s desire. He wrote the work for her before they ever met to express his unrequited love. They were married and eventually the contentious union ended in separation.

The concert opens with Berlioz's Hungarian March from his opera *The Damnation of Faust*. The composition is based upon a Hungarian national them, the *Rákóczy-indulo*. Berlioz added the work to the end of the first part of the opera after a well-received performance of the march in Budapest.

The Saturday performance will feature members of the new Civic Youth Orchestra (<http://avantimusic.org/civic-youth-orchestra-south/>) performing the Hungarian March alongside the Arapahoe Philharmonic.

We are pleased to present the premiere of *Episode for Orchestra* by composer Jonathan Bingham. Mr. Bingham was selected as the winner of the Arapahoe Philharmonic's 2016 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition and named the orchestra's composer-in-residence for the 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 concert seasons. The orchestra will commission a new work from Mr. Bingham to receive its world premiere in October 2018.

Episode for Orchestra began as an orchestration exercise with the intent of using its sketches to compose a subsequent orchestral piece. The work does not follow a strict classic form. The entire piece goes through variations of one chord progression as the motive. Mr. Bingham's earlier works were often restricted to synthetic scales that would be transposed throughout the piece. *Episode for Orchestra* is only slightly based on these scales, bringing forth more compositional independence. Music Director Devin Patrick Hughes describes the piece as "taking the past 100 years of American music and thrusting it into the future. It is an exciting piece that blends open intervals reminiscent of Copland and orchestral busywork akin to Bartok."

About Jonathan Bingham

Composer **Jonathan Bingham** is a native of Southampton, New Jersey. He began his composition studies in 2009 under Anthony Randolph at Howard University. Additionally, he studied at the Siena Summer Music Festival in Siena, Italy, where several of his chamber works received premieres, and at the Chamber Music Institute at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

In 2014, he relocated to New York City and began his graduate studies at New York University's Steinhardt School under the tutelage of Justin Dello Joio. While there, he composed several works including his String Quartet No. 1 for the JACK Quartet, his *(Untitled)* for the NYU Contemporary Ensemble and his *Episode for Orchestra*, which went on to win the 2016 Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition.

In addition to his contributions to the concert hall, Mr. Bingham composed the score to the film *Happenstance* by director Jeanette Sears, provided string music for the hip hop song *American Dream* by recording artist Scuzz Ortegé and orchestrated for rapper Thee Phantom's *The Entertainer*, which received a Carnegie Hall debut. He currently resides and continues to compose in New York.

About the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition

The Arapahoe Philharmonic, in support of its ongoing mission to recognize emerging talent in the classical music field, hosts the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Composition Competition for emerging composers every two years, alternating annually with the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Conducting Competition. The composition competition is sponsored by the Collage Giving Fund.

About the Arapahoe Philharmonic

Founded in 1953, the Arapahoe Philharmonic is among the longest established, continuously operating musical resources in Colorado. After thriving under just two conductors between 1953 and 2012, T. Gordon Parks and Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr., we welcomed the exciting new conductor Devin Patrick

Hughes to the podium in the 2013–2014 season. The orchestra’s musicians are primarily volunteers playing for the love of music, with a core of compensated section principals who provide technical leadership and support the excellence of performance.

Concerts feature repertoire spanning the centuries, from the great masters to composers of the current day. The Philharmonic is invested in future generations, presenting an annual children's concert, providing outreach to schools, working with area student Honor Orchestras, coaching the new Civic Youth Orchestra in partnership with Avanti Music Academy in Highlands Ranch, and presenting three collegiate-level competitions, the T. Gordon Parks Collegiate Concerto Competition and the Vincent C. LaGuardia, Jr. Collegiate Conducting and Composition Competitions.

About the Music Director

Devin Patrick Hughes is highly regarded for his exhilarating score interpretations, advocacy for music accessibility and promotion of music of our time. He is concurrently serving as Music Director and Conductor of the Arapahoe Philharmonic and Boulder Symphony, and has established himself as a musical leader in the region through previous positions with the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association, Denver Young Artists Orchestra, Denver Philharmonic Orchestra and Denver Contemporary Chamber Players. Hughes was the only American selected with eleven other finalists in the 2010 Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma, Italy, was a conducting fellow at the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, and has conducted ensembles across North America and Europe, including the Winnipeg Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Green Bay Symphony and Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini. More information may be found at www.devinpatrickhughes.com.

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